

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) Inspecting system for thin security documents, comprising: supports, of the type wherein
a transportation device comprised of a rotating cylinder (10) provided with transparent sectors (10a, 10b) of a size at least equal to a size of a portion of a security document to be inspected;

a transparency inspecting device comprised of i) an image acquiring device, ii) an illuminating device (3), and iii) an electromagnetic inspecting beam arranged between the image acquiring device and the illuminating device;

[[a]] the transportation device is apt comprising elements to transport said security document thin support past an the image acquiring device,

~~wherein said transportation device is a rotating cylinder (10) provided with transparent sectors (10a, 10b) of a size at least equal to that of the portion of the security support to be inspected and~~

wherein,

[[a]] said transparency inspecting device is placed partially inside and partially outside the cylinder so that the electromagnetic inspecting beam is intercepted by said security document ~~supports~~ held lying onto said transparent sectors,

~~characterised in that~~

said transportation cylinder comprises a gripping system for said security document, ~~support~~ said gripping system having a pivoting gripping element (11) cooperating with at least a radially movable block (12), and

the gripping point of [[,]] the security document is ~~support~~ being able to be lowered relative to the nominal rotational diameter thereof so as not to interfere with calibration blades (13) fixedly placed in proximity of the inspection axis and strictly adjacent to said rotating cylinder.

16. (currently amended) Inspecting system as in claim 15, wherein said transparent sectors are covered, on the security document ~~support~~ bearing side, by a thin removable transparent protective layer.

17. (currently amended) Inspecting system as in ~~elaims~~ claim 15, wherein,

an optical path is defined between [[an]] the illuminating device (3) ~~of said inspecting system~~ and an acquisition camera,

the acquisition camera comprises sensitive elements located on a plane where an image of the security document forms, the sensitive elements picking up the formed image of the security document,

said path ~~comprising~~ comprises a lens (21) which focuses the light source onto a focal point (F), through which said ~~thin security document support~~ is made to pass as a target,

along the optical path at or upstream of said lens (21), shading means (22) ~~being~~ is provided ~~apt~~ to define a cone of shade (5) ~~only~~ in correspondence ~~[[of]]~~ on the sensitive elements of said camera (5).

18. (previously presented) Inspecting system as in claim 17, wherein said shading means (5) is a semitransparent material layer due to which, in the absence of a target to be inspected, said camera (5) does not exceed the saturation threshold which would otherwise corrupt the quality of the image.

19. (previously presented) Inspecting system as in claim 18, wherein said semitransparent material is easily replaceable.

20. (previously presented) Inspecting system as in claim 18, wherein said semitransparent material, in the absence

of a target, allows the camera at most to reach but not exceed the saturation threshold.

21. (previously presented) Inspecting system as in claim 17, wherein said shading means is so transparent and sized as not to absorb more than 10% of the light intensity hitting the target.

22. (previously presented) Inspecting system as in claim 17, wherein said illuminating device has reflecting surfaces at its side ends.

23-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented) Inspecting system as in claim 19, wherein said semitransparent material, in the absence of a target, allows the camera at most to reach but not exceed the saturation threshold.

30. (canceled)

31. (new) Inspecting system for security documents, comprising:

a transportation device comprised of a rotating cylinder (10) provided with transparent sectors (10a, 10b) of a

size at least equal to a size of a portion of a security document to be inspected; and

a transparency inspecting device comprised of i) an image acquiring device, ii) an illuminating device (3), and iii) an electromagnetic inspecting beam arranged between the image acquiring device and the illuminating device,

the transportation device comprising elements to transport said security document past the image acquiring device,

said transparency inspecting device located partially inside and partially outside the cylinder so that the electromagnetic inspecting beam is intercepted by said security document held lying onto said transparent sectors,

said transportation cylinder comprising a gripping system for said security document, said gripping system having a pivoting gripping element (11) cooperating with at least a radially movable block (12),

the gripping point of the security document able to be lowered relative to the nominal rotational diameter thereof so as not to interfere with calibration blades (13) fixedly placed in proximity of the inspection axis and adjacent to said rotating cylinder, and

said transparent sectors covered, on the security document bearing side, by a removable transparent protective layer.

32. (new) Inspecting system for security documents, comprising:

a transportation device comprised of a rotating cylinder (10) provided with transparent sectors (10a, 10b) of a size at least equal to a size of a portion of a security document to be inspected;

a transparency inspecting device comprised of i) an image acquiring device, ii) an illuminating device (3), and iii) an electromagnetic inspecting beam arranged between the image acquiring device and the illuminating device,

the transportation device comprising elements to transport said security document past the image acquiring device, wherein,

said transparency inspecting device is located partially inside and partially outside the cylinder with the electromagnetic inspecting beam intercepted by said security document held lying onto said transparent sectors,

said transportation cylinder comprises a gripping system for said security document, said gripping system having a pivoting gripping element (11) cooperating with at least a radially movable block (12),

the gripping point of the security document is able to be lowered relative to the nominal rotational diameter thereof so as not to interfere with calibration blades (13) fixedly placed

in proximity of the inspection axis and adjacent to said rotating cylinder,

an optical path is defined between the illuminating device (3) and an acquisition camera,

the acquisition camera comprises sensitive elements located on a plane where an image of the security document forms, the sensitive elements picking up the formed image of the security document,

said path comprises a lens (21) which focuses the light source onto a focal point (F), through which focal point said security document is made to pass as a target,

along the optical path at or upstream of said lens (21), shading means (22) is provided to define a cone of shade (5) on the sensitive elements of said camera (5), and

wherein said shading means (5) is a semitransparent material layer due to which, in the absence of a target to be inspected, said camera (5) does not exceed the saturation threshold which would otherwise corrupt the quality of the image.

33. (new) Inspecting system as in claim 32, wherein said semitransparent material is replaceable.

34. (new) Inspecting system as in claim 32, wherein said semitransparent material, in the absence of a target, allows

the camera at most to reach but not exceed the saturation threshold.

35. (previously presented) Inspecting system as in claim 32, wherein said shading means is so transparent and sized as not to absorb more than 10% of the light intensity hitting the target.

36. (previously presented) Inspecting system as in claim 32, wherein said illuminating device has reflecting surfaces at its side ends.